

ABSTRACT

A method of controlling routing of packets to a mobile node in a packet switching network including an infrastructure of packet switching nodes interconnected by packet transport links, said packet switching nodes including a plurality of fixed core nodes and a plurality of access nodes to which routing paths, defined by next-hop forwarding provided by packet switching nodes located along said routing paths, may be directed in said infrastructure for a given network address, said next-hop forwarding being defined in response to routing defining processes in which routing protocol control messages are transmitted between packet switching nodes and routing protocol data, specifying a characteristic of a route passing through an access node, is stored in said packet switching nodes, said method comprising:

altering said next-hop forwarding, for a first network address used by said mobile node, in at least one of said packet switching nodes in response to mobility of said mobile host from a first access node to a second access node, to allow packets to be routed to said mobile host via said second access node, by a routing defining process involving the transmission of routing control messages to a limited number of said packet switching nodes, such that after said routing defining process ends:

first routing protocol data for said first network address is held in a first set of packet switching nodes, said first routing protocol data specifying a characteristic of a first route passing through said first access node; and

second routing protocol data for said first network address is held in a second set of packet switching nodes, different to said first set of packet switching

nodes, said second routing protocol data specifying a characteristic of a second route passing through said second access node.